MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
AND
GHOST RIDER
CAGE
ALSO:
IRON FIST
MARVEL comics
$1.50 US
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132
UK £1.10
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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry,

What time is it, kids? It's combined letter time! MARVEL COMICS #128 and 129 to be exact....

1. Wolverine/Lynx: truth to tell, I expected a lot more from this story, judging from the initial chapter. I may not have gotten what I wanted, but the story isn't all that bad. Scott Lobdell is obviously a good Wolverine writer, and his character the Lynx seems to have potential, but she needs to be developed more. 8 parts is a bit much for this story, too. Jensen and Holdredge can't seem to decide on a style. #128 was a lot better than #129, by the way. Any chances of Mark Texiera or Dwayne Turner in these pages on the WOLVERINE serial? Or how about another Peter David story? #128 gets a B, and #129 makes the grade at a C.

2. Ghost Rider: doing much better than before. The dimension of Dusk is very interesting, and I found #129 to be a fascinating installment. While #128 was good, Ann Nocenti and Steve Lightle's work in #129 was excellent and superior to their previous chapter. "Peak the Pathos" in #129 was a great character study of Typhoid Mary and her many personalities. Steve Lightle's art was excellent, although I'd like to see you pair him with another inker for a trial run. #128 earns a B+, while #129 earns a solid A.

3. Iron Fist: this story has potential, but I doubt it will find all of it by part 8. "The Book of Changes" is definitely interesting, but Joey Cavalieri's script doesn't seem to advance it all that much. I'd like to see J.M. DeMatteis write an IRON FIST primer for his new series. The artwork by Hoover in #128 was great, but the Wylie/Renkewitz team was less than pleasing. #128 gets an A, while #129 rates a C+.

4. American Eagle/Crossbones: with both stories by the same team, it's a lot easier to rate this way. John Figueroa wrote two adequate scripts, especially with American Eagle. The Crossbones story was rather flat, in terms of both story and artwork. As for American Eagle, it was not spectacular, but very interesting. I give #128 an A, and #129 a C+.

5. Wolverine covers: #128: A+. #129: B.

6. Ghost Rider covers: # 128: A+. #129: A.

While my reviews were less than satisfying in many spots, I encourage you to continually improve MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. As they would say in the commercials, "in a few short months, you'll look better than ever!"

Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 2197
Union, New Jersey 07083-2197

Hmmm...seems like we went up in some areas and down in others. We'll keep trying, though. Well, Joey, what do you think of the latest Wolverine serial, brought to you by the amazing talents of Steve Lightle and Dan Slott? Also, did the conclusion to "the Book of Changes" surprise you? We thought so!

Dear Marvel,
Re: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #127.
A+
'Nuff said.

Evan Rogarge
1895 Greenfield Drive
Ossineke, MI 49766

Ah, sometimes, a man of few words is the nicest. Thanks, Evan! But we're a little red-faced. We've got to admit our faults. Due to a slip up, we failed to note that Loretta Krol lettered the American Eagle tale, "Screams," in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #130. Sorry about that!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

GHOST RIDER

James Fry/Hector Collazo/Harry Candelario –COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — COWBOYS FAN
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.
GHOST RIDER/ CAGE 1
HEART AND SOUL
Part 2 of 6
"LOVE CONNECTION"

Love hurts...but never like this. Cage and Ghost Rider find themselves pitted against the enigmatic entity that calls itself Darklove. You don't really think they'll win, do you?

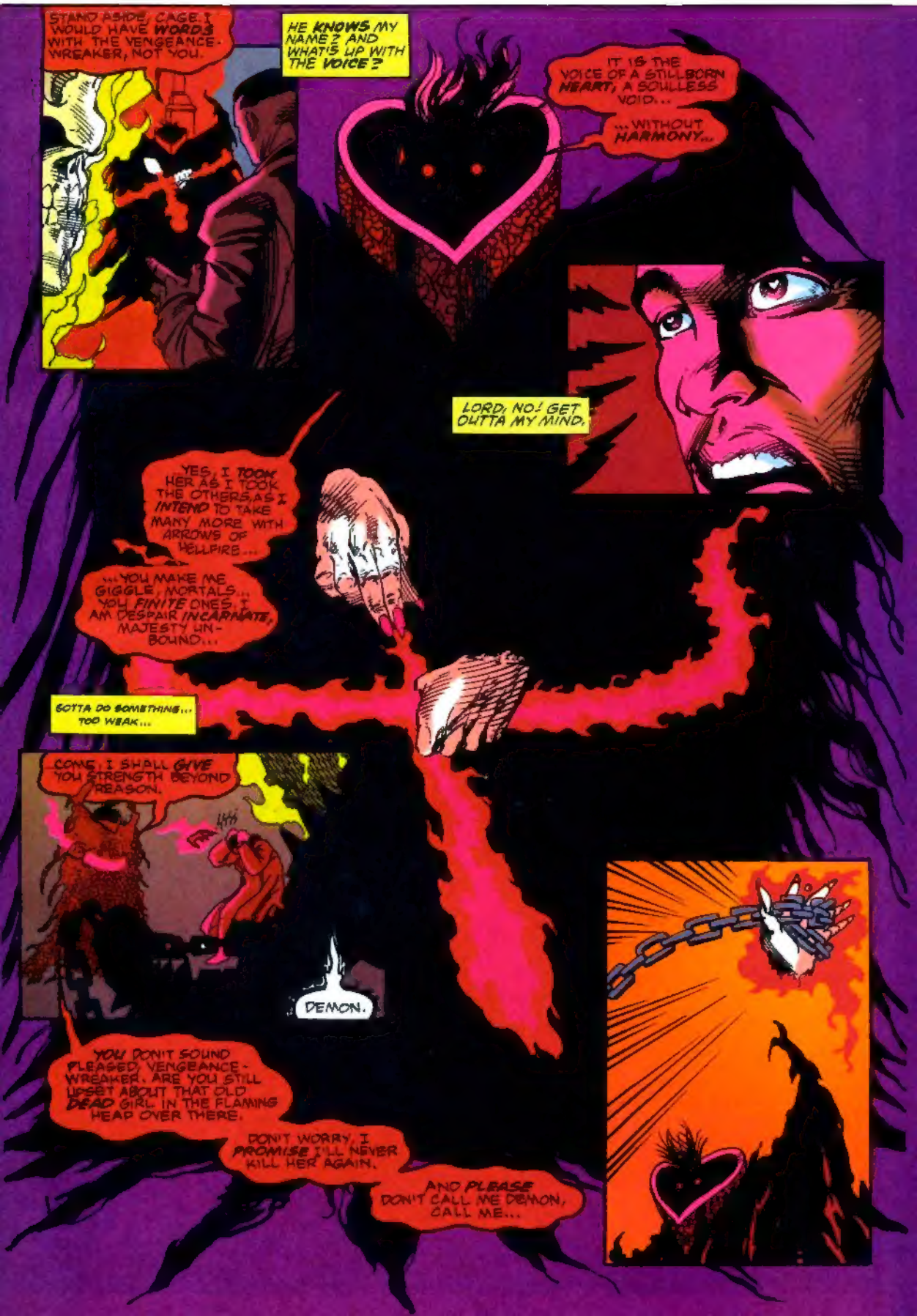
Writer — KARL BOLLERS
Penciler — FREDDY MENDEZ
Inkers — CHRIS IVY/KEN BRANCH
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist — MIKE THOMAS

pg.
IRON FIST 9
THE BOOK OF CHANGES
Part 8 of 8
"ALL DEBTS FORGOTTEN, ALL SINS FORGIVEN"

After battling through the ranks of Hydra, Iron Fist and his allies must now face the mysterious power behind the anomalies!

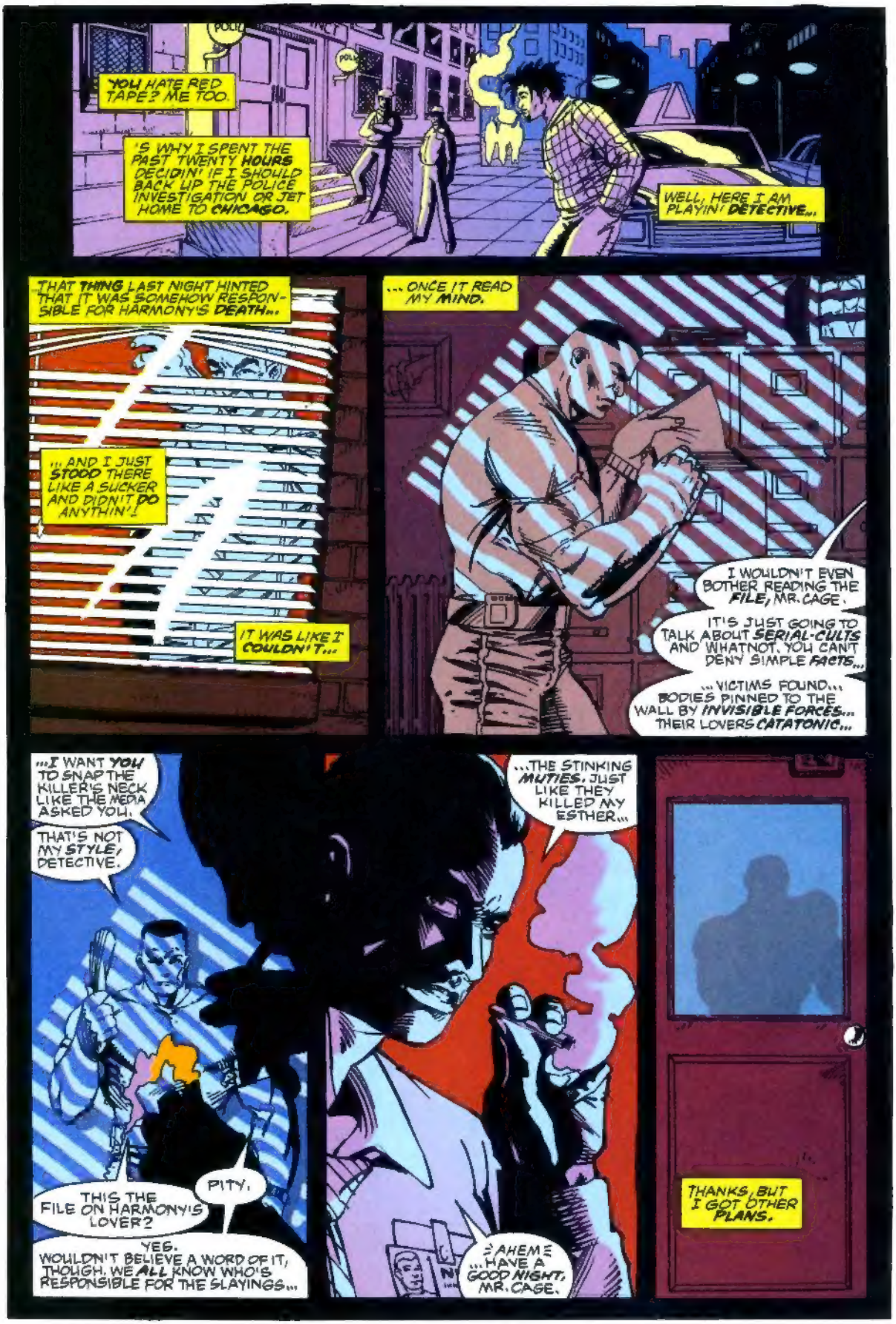
Writer —JOEY CAVALIERI
Penciler — FRED HAYNES
Inker— DON HUDSON
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — MIKE THOMAS

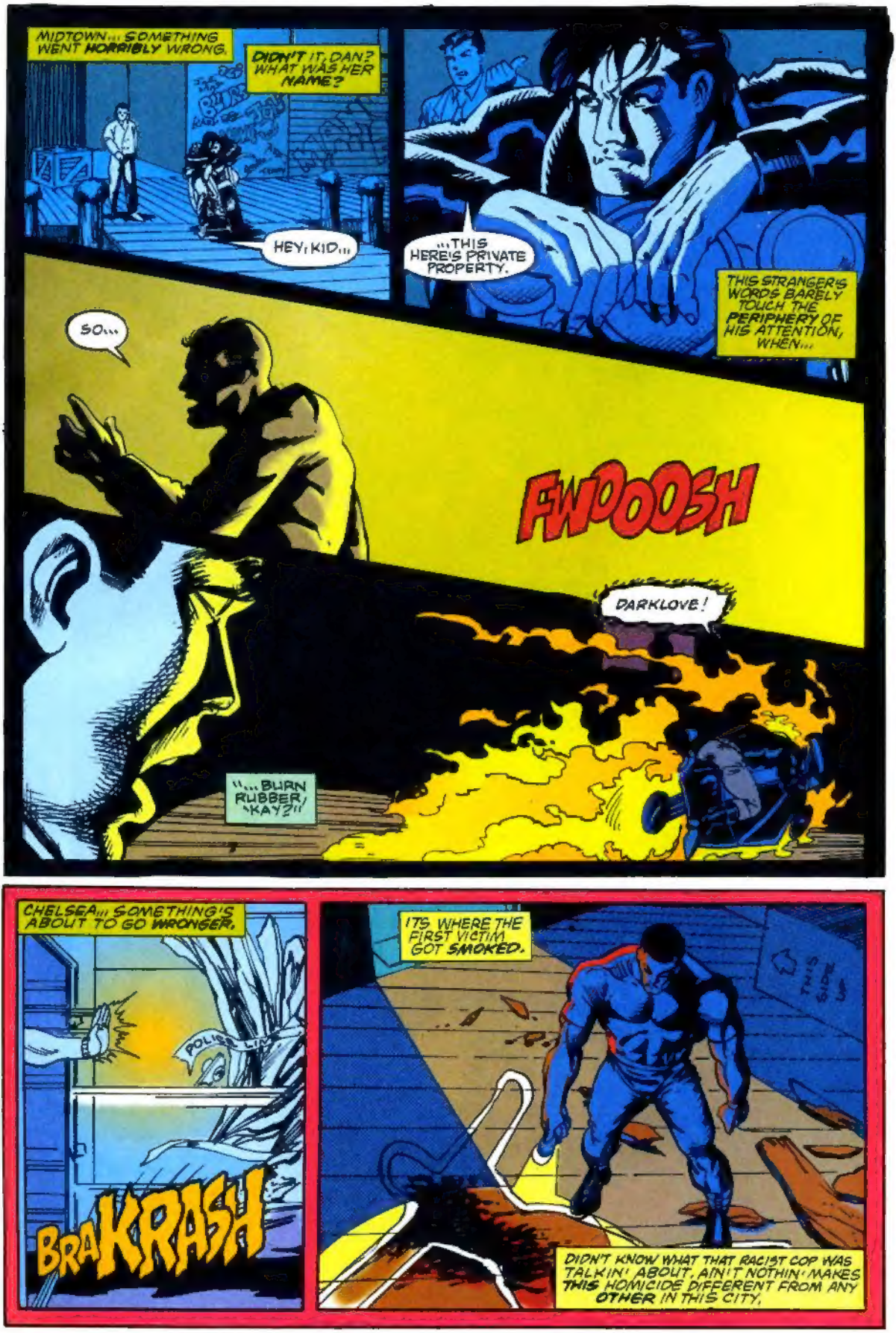
NEXT ISSUE: WOLVERINE — PART 2 OF 6 — WOLVERINE CONFRONTS THE COVEN! IRON FIST — PART 1 OF 4 — ALONGSIDE COLLEEN WING AND MISTY KNIGHT, FIST MUST FACE THE YAKUZA TO PROTECT AN F.B.I. INFORMANT! CLOAK AND DAGGER — A VAMPIRE STALKS THE STREETS OF NEW YORK — AND HER TARGETS ARE CLOAK AND DAGGER! GHOST RIDER AND CAGE — THE HEROES UNCOVER THE DARKHOLD PAGE THAT REVEALS THE SECRET OF DARKLOVE!


STAND ASIDE, CAGE. I WOULD HAVE WORDS WITH THE VENGEANCE-WREAKER, NOT YOU.
HE KNOWS MY NAME? AND WHAT'S UP WITH THE VOICE?
IT IS THE VOICE OF A STILLBORN HEART, A SOULLESS VOID...
...WITHOUT HARMONY...
LORD, NO! GET OUTTA MY MIND.
YES, I TOOK HER AS I TOOK THE OTHERS, AS I INTEND TO TAKE MANY MORE WITH ARROWS OF HELLFIRE...
...YOU MAKE ME GIGGLE, MORTALS... YOU FINITE ONES. I AM DESPAIR INCARNATE, MAJESTY UNBOUND...
GOTTA DO SOMETHING... TOO WEAK...
COME, I SHALL GIVE YOU STRENGTH BEYOND REASON.
DEMON.
YOU DON'T SOUND PLEASED, VENGEANCE-WREAKER. ARE YOU STILL UPSET ABOUT THAT OLD DEAD GIRL IN THE FLAMING HEAP OVER THERE.
DON'T WORRY, I PROMISE I'LL NEVER KILL HER AGAIN.
AND PLEASE DON'T CALL ME DEMON, CALL ME...

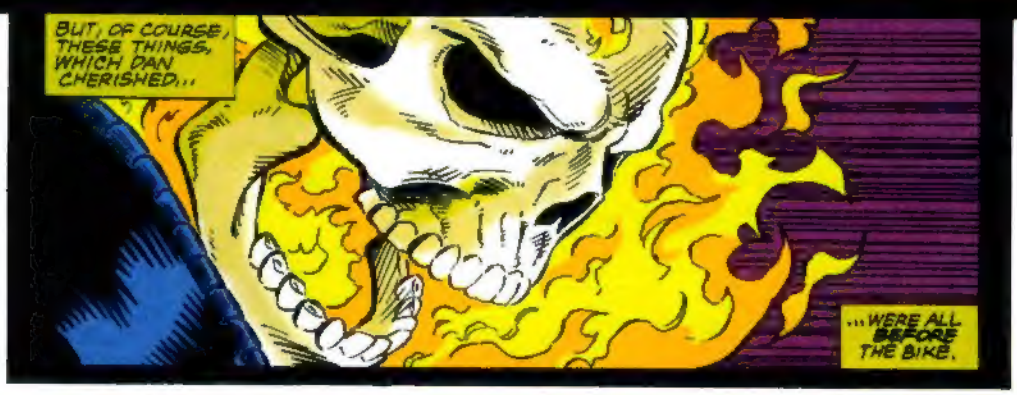
"...Darklove!"
ARCANE ENERGIES REACH OUT FROM GNARLED CLAWS TO ENGULF THE MYSTERIOUS BEING CLAD IN SPIKED LEATHER.
SOME OF THE ONLOOKERS WILL DENY SEEING A SCREAMING SKULL AT COLUMBUS CIRCLE TONIGHT...
...AND IN TIME, READILY FORGET THE IMAGE IF EVER ASKED TO RECALL IT.
OTHERS PERHAPS OF LESSER WILL, WILL SUFFER NIGHT-MARES FOR YEARS TO COME...
...AT LEAST ONE WILL BE INSTITUTIONALIZED.
GHOST RIDER & CAGE IN
HEART AND SOUL
PART TWO
LOVE CONNECTION

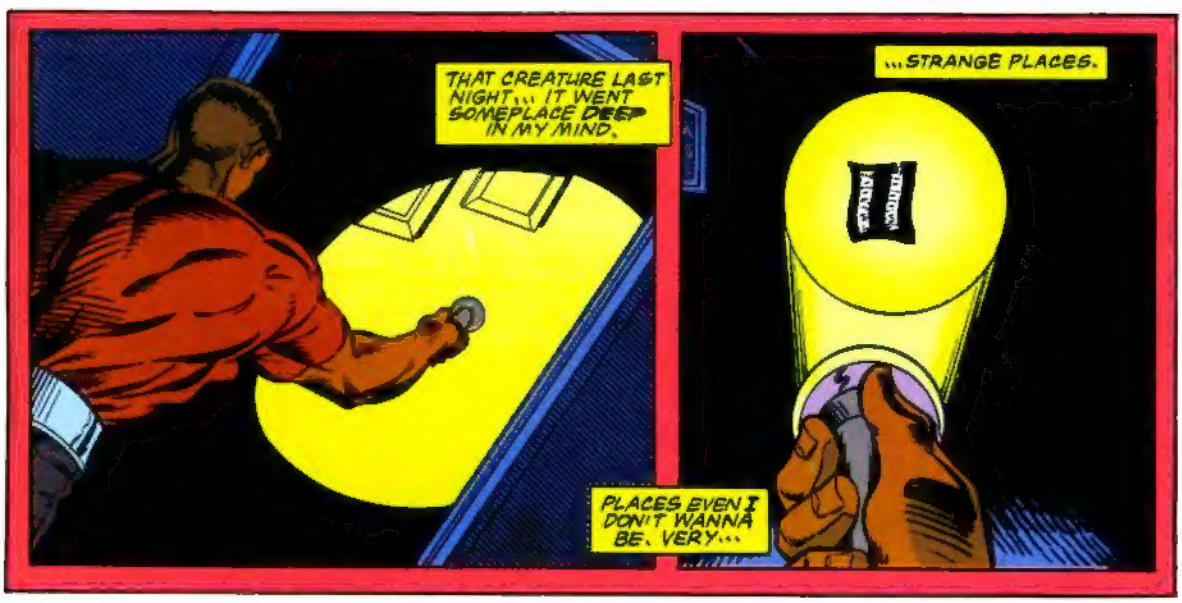
YOU MUST BE A BEING OF CONSIDERABLE POWER... GHOST RIDER, ISN'T IT? QUITE UNLIKE THE MORTALS...
...TO RESIST MY ATTEMPT AT POSSESSION...
...BUT AT LEAST IT WASN'T A TOTAL LOSS...
HEAD FEELS ALL @$%# UP.
YO, MONEY!!! YOU AW'IGHT?
YEAH, JUST DON'T CALL ME 'MONEY'.
'FORE I CAN CLEAR MY BRAIN, THE GHOST RIDER IS ALREADY OUT.
ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS SOME KINDA HOAX.
GUESS YOU AIN'T THE DUDE FROM 'STREET JUSTICE' AFTER ALL, HUH?
THAT... THING MADE TRACKS, TOO... CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY 'BOUT THAT, EITHER.
OH, BUT YOU WILL BE...
...YOU WILL BE!


POLICE
POLICE
YOU HATE RED TAPE? ME TOO.
'S WHY I SPENT THE PAST TWENTY HOURS DECIDIN' IF I SHOULD BACK UP THE POLICE INVESTIGATION OR JET HOME TO CHICAGO.
WELL, HERE I AM PLAYIN' DETECTIVE...
...THAT THING LAST NIGHT HINTED THAT IT WAS SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR HARMONY'S DEATH...
...AND I JUST STOOD THERE LIKE A SUCKER AND DIDN'T DO ANYTHIN'!
IT WAS LIKE I COULDN'T...
...ONCE IT READ MY MIND.
I WOULDN'T EVEN BOTHER READING THE FILE, MR. CAGE.
IT'S JUST GOING TO TALK ABOUT SERIAL-CULTS AND WHATNOT. YOU CAN'T DENY SIMPLE FACTS...
...VICTIMS FOUND... BODIES PINNED TO THE WALL BY INVISIBLE FORCES... THEIR LOVERS CATATONIC...
...I WANT YOU TO SNAP THE KILLER'S NECK LIKE THE MEDIA ASKED YOU.
THAT'S NOT MY STYLE, DETECTIVE.
...THE STINKING MUTIES. JUST LIKE THEY KILLED MY ESTHER...
PITY.
THIS THE FILE ON HARMONY'S LOVER?
YES.
WOULDN'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT, THOUGH. WE ALL KNOW WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SLAYINGS...
AHEM
...HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, MR. CAGE.
THANKS, BUT I GOT OTHER PLANS.


MIDTOWN... SOMETHING WENT HORRIBLY WRONG.
DIDN'T IT, DAN? WHAT WAS HER NAME?
HEY, KID...
...THIS HERE'S PRIVATE PROPERTY.
THIS STRANGER'S WORDS BARELY TOUCH THE PERIPHERY OF HIS ATTENTION, WHEN...
SO...
FWOOOSH
DARKLOVE!
"...BURN RUBBER, 'KAY?"
CHELSEA... SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO GO WRONGER.
BRAKRASH
IT'S WHERE THE FIRST VICTIM GOT SMOKED.
DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THAT RACIST COP WAS TALKIN' ABOUT, AIN'T NOTHIN' MAKES THIS HOMICIDE DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER IN THIS CITY.

BEFORE THE BIKE, THERE WAS NORMALCY.
BEFORE THE BIKE, THERE WAS SLEEP...
...FILLED WITH DREAMS.


BUT, OF COURSE, THESE THINGS, WHICH DAN CHERISHED...
...WERE ALL BEFORE THE BIKE.


THAT CREATURE LAST NIGHT... IT WENT SOMEPLACE DEEP IN MY MIND.
...STRANGE PLACES.
PLACES EVEN I DON'T WANNA BE. VERY...

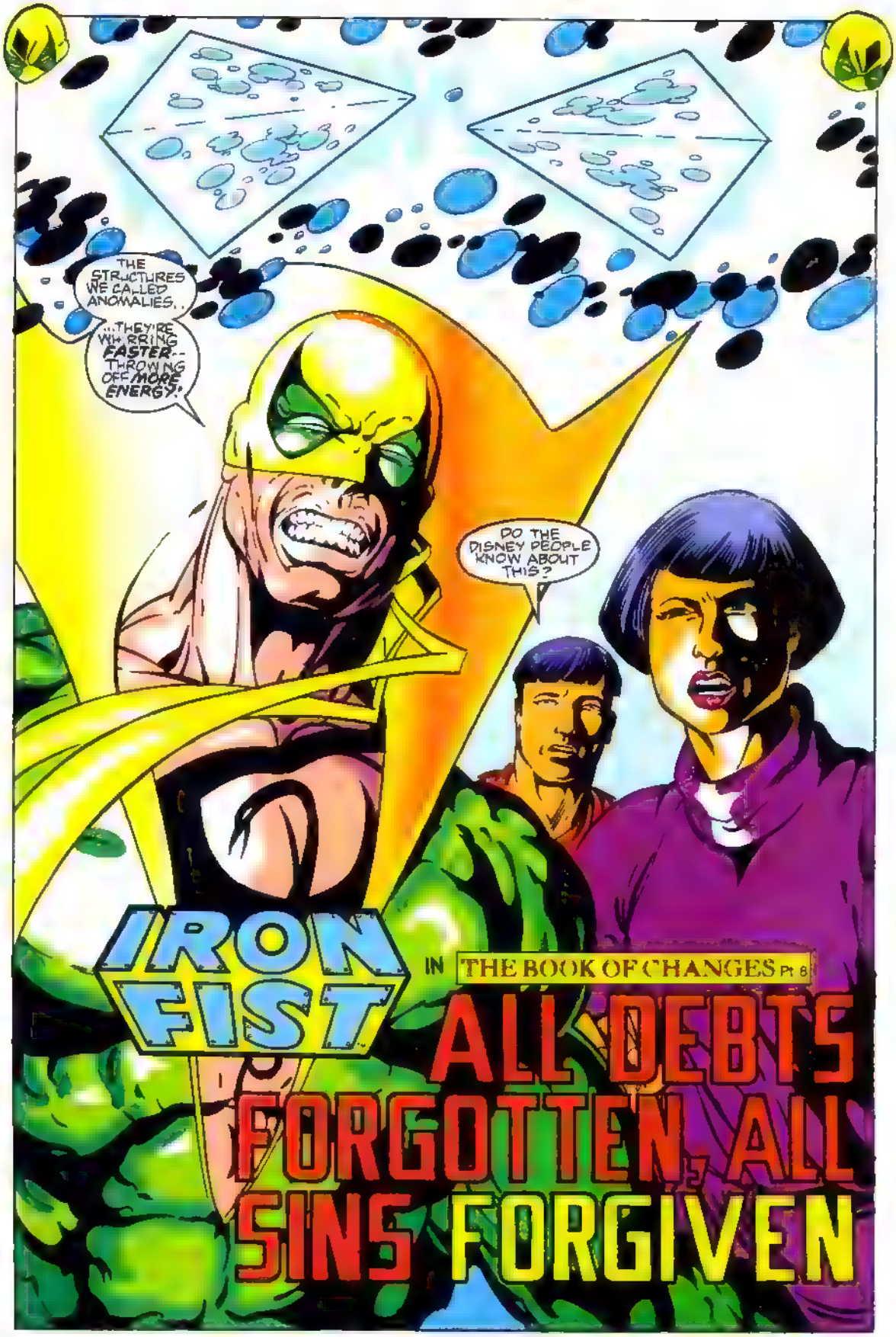
SHANTYTOWN -- LOCATED AT THE BASE OF THE MANHATTAN BRIDGE, IT IS A HOME FOR THE HOMELESS.
K.C., IN ANOTHER DECADE WOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED A BAG LADY, NOW, TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, SHE IS A HOMELESS PERSON.
GAAAKK!
SHE'S ALSO A HOME.
K.C., YOU AND TOBY HAVIN' A LOVER'S QUARREL?
YOU JOIN A GYM OR SOMEP'N?
JUST LETTING THIS SCUM KNOW WHO REALLY WEARS THE PANTS AROUND HERE. AFTER ALL, LOVE HAS ITS PRICE!!!
...YOU READY TO PAY IT, GHOST RIDER?

MEMORIES THAT I'VE BEEN BURIED -- MOMMA'S DEATH, REVA'S DEATH, JAMES' DEATH -- ARE RUNNIN' WILD.
WHAT'D THAT THING DO? MAKE ME SEE I'M SOME KINDA MAGNET FOR DEATH?
YES, BUT WE LOVE YOU FOR IT.

WHO--?!
NOBODY.

WHEN TWO BEINGS FORM A TRUE BOND, IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING SPECIAL. A SHARING OF HEARTS AND MINDS...
...A NURTURING OF HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS.
...SHOULD NEVER BE BROKEN.
SUCH BONDS...

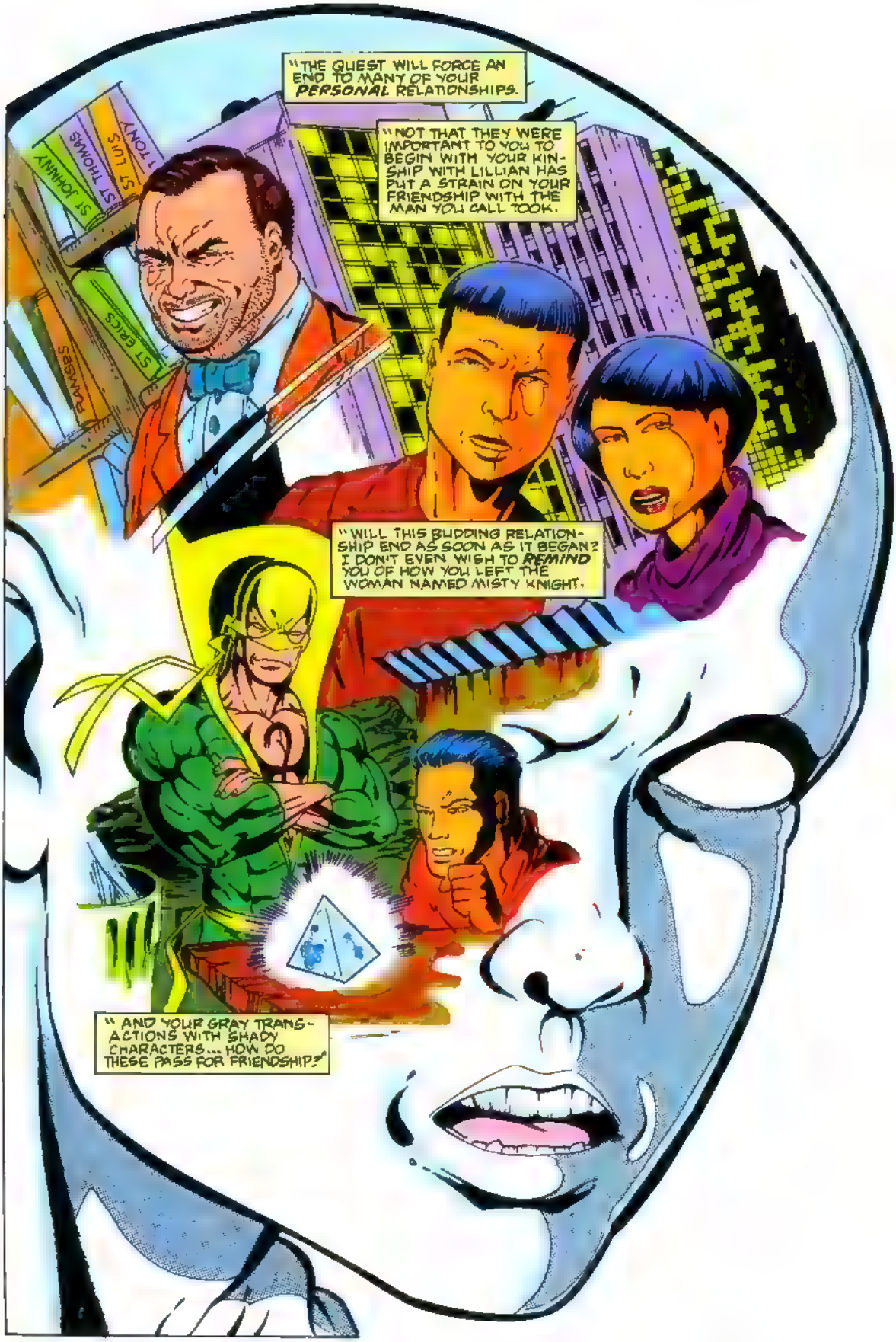
'S IT JUST ME...
...OR DID THINGS JUST GET...
...DARKER?


THE STRUCTURES WE CALLED ANOMALIES...
...THEY'RE WHIRRING FASTER-- THROWING OFF MORE ENERGY!
DO THE DISNEY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THIS?
IRON FIST
IN THE BOOK OF CHANGES Pt 6
ALL DEBTS FORGOTTEN, ALL SINS FORGIVEN

NOT FUNNY
THEY'RE GLOWING WHITE HOT!
HIT THE DIRT!
DON'T LOOK UP...
...IT'S BLINDING!
AND DEAFENING!

THE SUPREME HYDRA WAS CORRECT, IRON FIST.
THIS IS INDEED A PORTAL TO ANOTHER DIMENSION.
MY DIMENSION.
I AM KNOWN BY MANY NAMES...TATH KI... MISTER BUDA... THE CONTEMPLATOR.
AND YOUR PURPOSE?
YOU CAME INTO POSSESSION OF WHAT YOU HAVE TERMED THE "ANOMALY..."
...BECAUSE IT WAS MY PURPOSE TO SUBVERT TWO IMPORTANT EARTHLY ORGANIZATIONS. HYDRA...
...AND RAND CORPORATION.
I FAILED IN THE FORMER, BUT I SUCCEEDED IN THE LATTER.
BUT WHY? WHY RAND?

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE. FOR OUR OWN PEACE AND CONTENTMENT.
HYDRA IS BEYOND REDEMPTION... BEYOND MY POWER TO DISBAND OR REVERT IT.
BUT TO BRING PEACE AND CONTENTMENT TO YOUR TROUBLED SOUL, RAND HAD TO LOSE ITS GUIDING SPIRIT... YOU.
YOUR FAITH HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY THE CORRUPTION THAT PERVADES RAND. SOMEONE HAS BETRAYED YOU WITHIN ITS RANKS... AND THIS HAS HURT YOU DEEPLY
WHO WAS IT? FARO? TERESHKOVA? OBERLIN?
TELL ME! WHO?
I CANNOT. I WILL NOT.
YOU HAVE LEFT THAT ORGANIZATION BEHIND SO SHALL IT BE.
THE ANSWER SHOULD NO LONGER MATTER TO YOU. YOU MUST TRANSCEND IT.
YOU SHOULD BECOME BEYOND CARING IF YOU ARE TO EMBARK ON A NEW QUEST -- A QUEST TO BECOME THE SUPERIOR MAN.


"THE QUEST WILL FORCE AN END TO MANY OF YOUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.
"NOT THAT THEY WERE IMPORTANT TO YOU TO BEGIN WITH. YOUR KINSHIP WITH LILLIAN HAS PUT A STRAIN ON YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE MAN YOU CALL TOOK.
"WILL THIS BUDDING RELATIONSHIP END AS SOON AS IT BEGAN? I DON'T EVEN WISH TO REMIND YOU OF HOW YOU LEFT THE WOMAN NAMED MISTY KNIGHT.
"AND YOUR GRAY TRANSACTIONS WITH SHADY CHARACTERS... HOW DO THESE PASS FOR FRIENDSHIP?"
ST LOUIS
ST THOMAS
ST JOHNNY
ST TONY
ST ERICS
PLAYERS

"THE ROAD AHEAD IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ROAD BEHIND.
"THE CHALLENGES OF THE RECENT PAST...
"...WILL *PALE* BEFORE THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE."
IT FALLS TO ME TO READY YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGLES FOR THEM...

...FOR YOUR QUEST IS NOT MERELY TO BECOME THE SUPERIOR MAN...
...TO ATTAIN PERFECTION FOR YOURSELVES...
...BUT TO HELP OTHER HUMANS TO ATTAIN A GOAL THAT IS UNREACHABLE... UN-ATTAINABLE!
THE GOAL OF...
...UNIVERSAL PERFECTION.

THAT SAID, NOT ALL OF YOUR DEALINGS ON YOUR QUEST WILL BE ON SUCH A RARIFIED, COSMIC PLANE.
I HAVE MADE YOU READY TO DEAL ONCE AGAIN WITH THE LOWLIFE...
...BUT UNDERSTAND...
...I AM ALWAYS WITH YOU.
AS EASILY AS I FUSE BOTH THESE POWERFUL DIMENSIONAL CONDUITS TOGETHER...
...YOU CAN USE THE RESULT OF THAT BONDING TO SUMMON ME.
IT IS YOURS. IT IS YOUR ORACLE, YOUR SPIRITUAL COMPASS TO CONSULT FOR DIRECTION, AS HUMANS FOR AGES HAVE CONSULTED THE BOOK OF CHANGE.
YOU LITERALLY NOW HAVE THE FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS, IRON FIST.
YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A LIGHT. USE IT TO GUIDE HUMANITY OUT OF THE TUNNEL.
SO YOU'RE SAYING EVERYTHING ELSE IS JUST A LIGHT?
WHATEVER LIES AHEAD...
...I'M READY.
NEVER THE END.

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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

WOLVERINE

Steve Lightle — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

WOLVERINE ..... pg. 1

BROTHER IN ARMS
Part 1 of 6
"TROUBLE IN PARADISE"

The last time Wolverine faced Cyber, the adamantium-laced assassin almost killed the X-Man. Now, Cyber returns with the sinister arcane might of the **Coven!**

Writer — DAN SLOTT
Artist — STEVE LIGHTLE
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist — STEVE AND MARIANNE LIGHTLE

IRON MAN ..... pg. 9

"NOVEL APPROACH"

Iron Man is attacked by a powerful new armored villain: the Techno-Killer! The armored Avenger must learn who his mysterious adversary really is, but more importantly, why the Techno-Killer's armor strongly resembles top secret designs by Tony Stark...

Writer — GLENN GREENBERG
Penciler — PARIS KAROUNOS
Inker — TIM TUOHY
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist — MARK BENARDO

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry and Mark,

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #128 has got to be one of the best comics I have read in a long time. Here's what I thought of it:

Ghost Rider/Iron Fist/American Eagle cover: neat idea to have a one-picture cover. This cover's only problem is that your cover artist crammed too much on this side. Still, it gets an A-.

Wolverine cover: Not one of your better Wolverine covers: there's not enough to look at. Again, more on this cover and less on the other. Grade: B+

Wolverine/Lynx: This was a twist from a completely helpless Lynx and Wolverine running around with some other heroes, taking her from one place to another. Near the end, though, the story does go back to that. Grade: A.

Ghost Rider/Typhoid Mary: Until this issue, I couldn't understand this story. This issue changed all that. The art could have been better, but it was still pleasing to the eye. Grade: B.

American Eagle: It's not often that you can get such a different hero into an interesting story. The art was good, but the story could have starred another hero just as well. Grade: A.

Iron Fist: Not one of my favorite people, but the story still makes this pretty good. Grade: A+.

Adam Jobson
3917 Druid Hills Rd.
Louisville, KY 40207

The problem with the cover was that Wolverine is just so territorial about his space! Geez, the guy acts like an animal! Well, what do the rest of you readers out there think: wraparound covers, yea or nay?

Dear Terry and Mark,

I enjoyed reading MCP #129. Here's what I thought of it and why:

Wolverine cover: Fry and Collazo produced a marvelous piece of artwork, showing all of the major players of the story. Fry's covers have impressed me so much that I'd love to see some interior work by him (perhaps a new Werewolf story?). Grade: A+.

"Passion Play" part 7: Dan Slott did an excellent job filling in scripting for Scott Lobdell, and the art by Jensen and Holdredge was nearly perfect. It's stories like this that make this book a worthwhile purchase. Grade: A+.

Crossbones: I'm an avid reader of CAPTAIN AMERICA, so this story was a pleasant surprise. Wilson and Hudson produced some pretty good artwork. I especially like page 15. The actual story was pretty good, albeit a bit rushed. Grade: B.

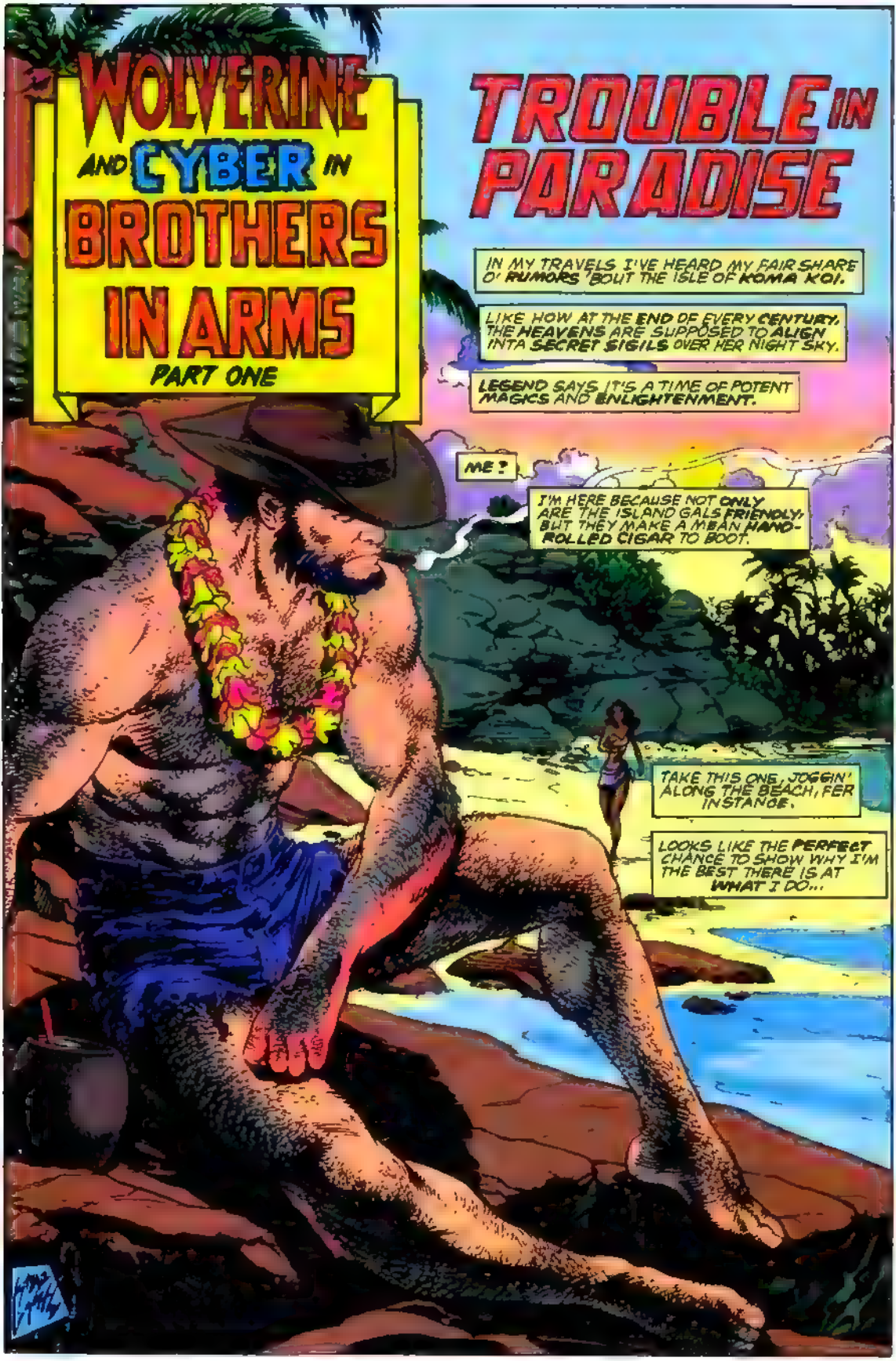
"The Walking Wounded" part 7: while still a little confusing, this story is much easier to understand. Steve's artwork was as good as ever, and he and Marianne did some nice coloring. Oh yeah, Dave's lettering was good as well. Grade: B+.

"The Book of Changes" part 5: despite the sudden change of artists, this was a good chapter. I enjoyed the art on pages 10-12 best, but page 16 wasn't all that bad either. Joey's story is really arousing my interest, and I look forward to the next chapter. Grade: B+

Overall grade: A. Keep up the good work, guys!

Ben Herman
45 Runyon Place
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Sheesh, Ben, everyone's blushing on this end! If you dig James Fry's work, take a gander at MOON KNIGHT. The guy's absolutely bowling the whole office over with his stunning art! Also, if you like Dan Slott's work, try REN & STIMPY. It's phlegm-rific!


WOLVERINE AND CYBER IN BROTHERS IN ARMS
PART ONE
TROUBLE IN PARADISE
IN MY TRAVELS I'VE HEARD MY FAIR SHARE O' RUMORS 'BOUT THE ISLE OF KOMA KOI.
LIKE HOW AT THE END OF EVERY CENTURY, THE HEAVENS ARE SUPPOSED TO ALIGN INTA SECRET SIGILS OVER HER NIGHT SKY.
LEGEND SAYS IT'S A TIME OF POTENT MAGICS AND ENLIGHTENMENT.
ME?
I'M HERE BECAUSE NOT ONLY ARE THE ISLAND GALS FRIENDLY, BUT THEY MAKE A MEAN HAND-ROLLED CIGAR TO BOOT.
TAKE THIS ONE, JOGGIN' ALONG THE BEACH, FER INSTANCE.
LOOKS LIKE THE PERFECT CHANCE TO SHOW WHY I'M THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT I DO...

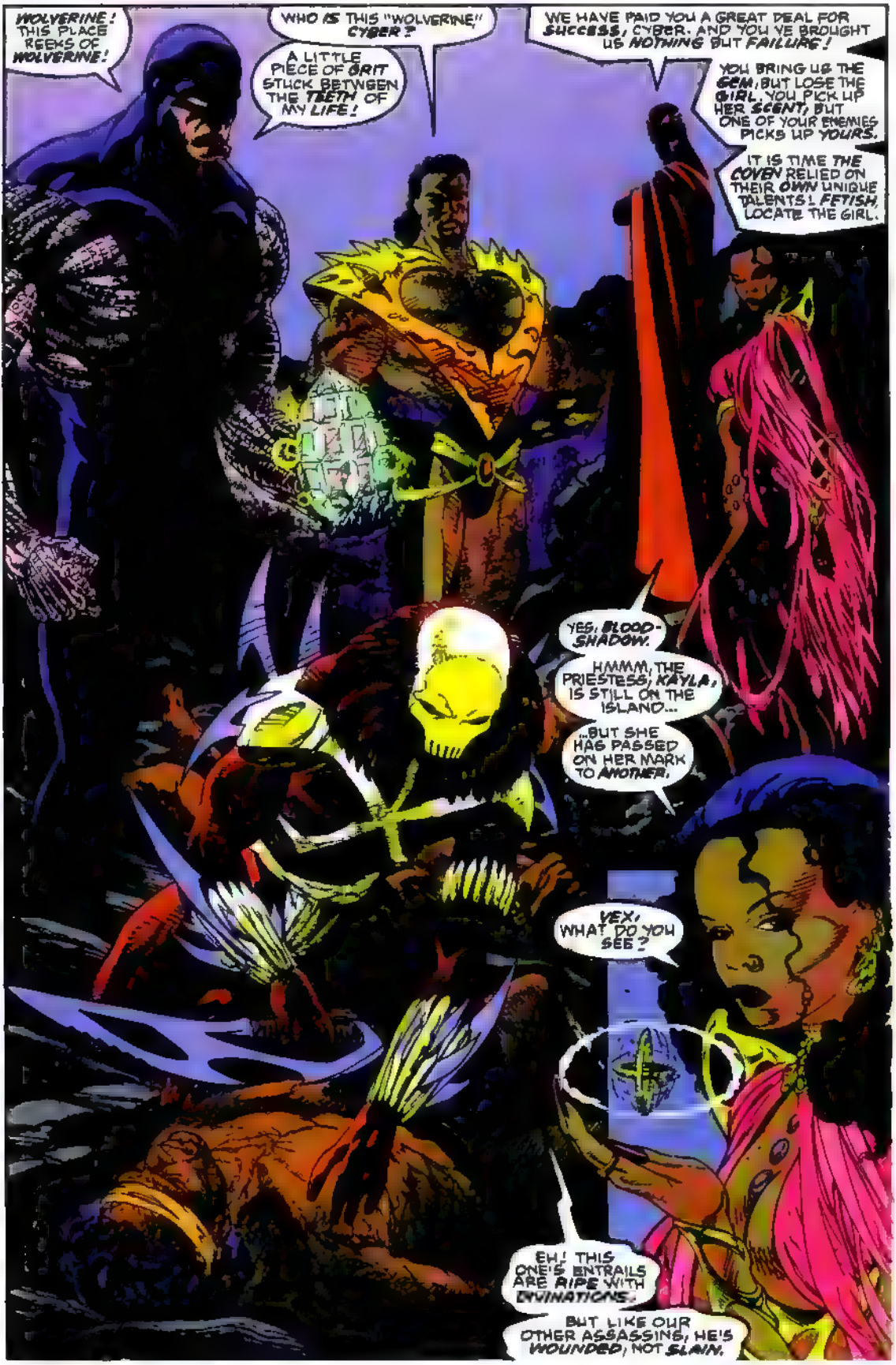
HOLD ON.
EVEN OVER BURNIN' TOBACCO LEAVES, I CAN TELL HER SCENT'S ALL WRONG.
IT'S HER SWEAT.
LACED WITH FEAR.
AND A SCENT I'D KNOW AS WELL AS MY OWN...
...CYBER!
WHAT'S THE RUSH, DARLIN'?
NO!
YOU MUST LET ME GO!
THEY'RE AFTER ME!
"BAD GUYS"! I TAKE IT, EH?
HERE.

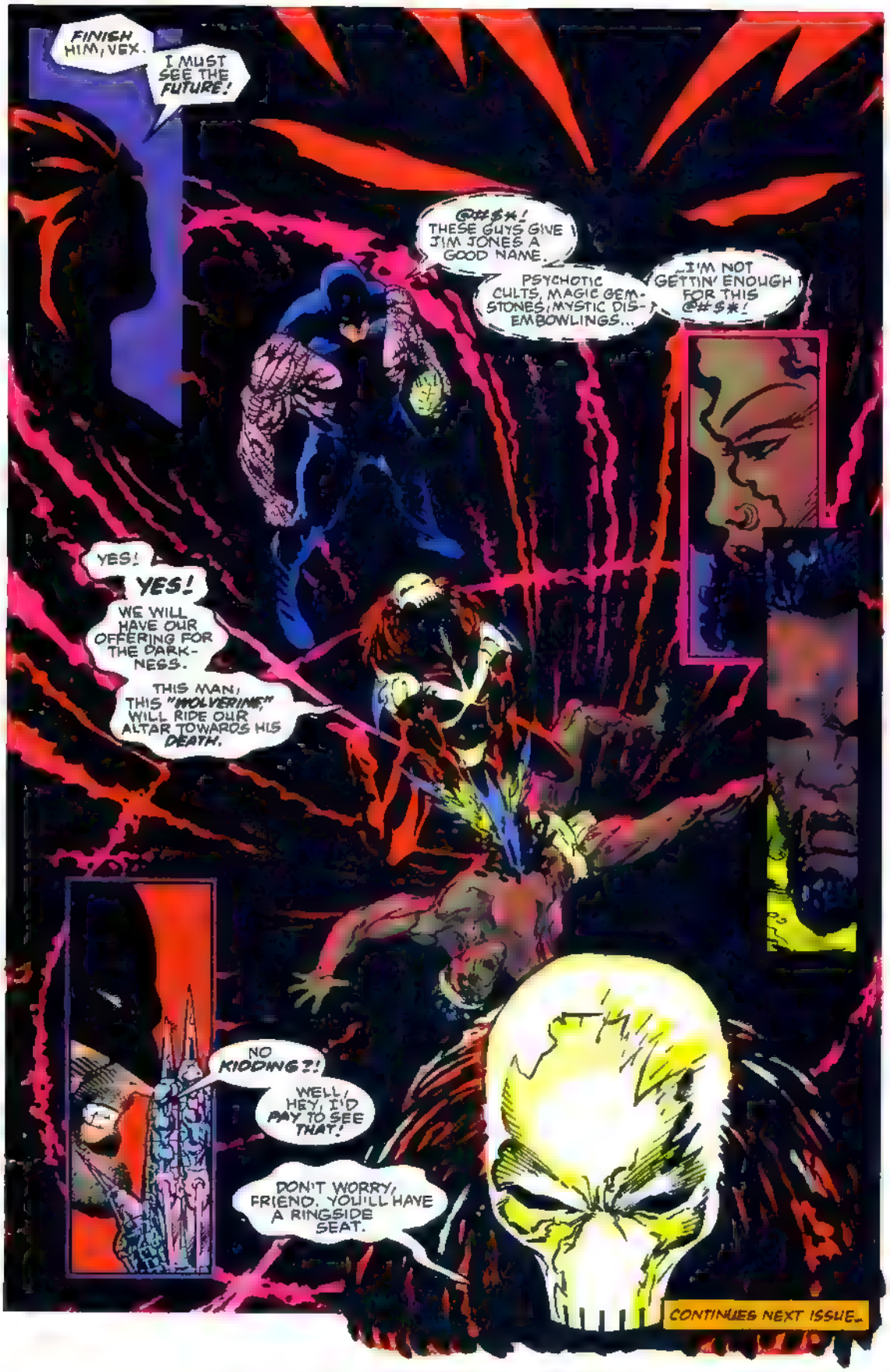
DO SOMETHING USEFUL 'N' HOLD MY HAT.
YOUR HAT?
YEAH, DON'T WANT YOUR PALS MESSIN' IT UP.
THESE ARE NOT FRIENDS! THEY'RE ASSASSINS OF THE COVEN!
I WAS THEIR SACRIFICE, INTENDED TO SUMMON THE FINAL DARK AGE OF MAN
SNIKT
BUT WHO ARE YOU? AND WHY DO YOU COME TO MY AID?
NAME'S LOGAN, DARLIN'.
AND I'D LOVE TO TELL YOU THIS'S MY JOB...
AAAAH!
...BUT TRUTH T' TELL...
...I'M ON VACATION!

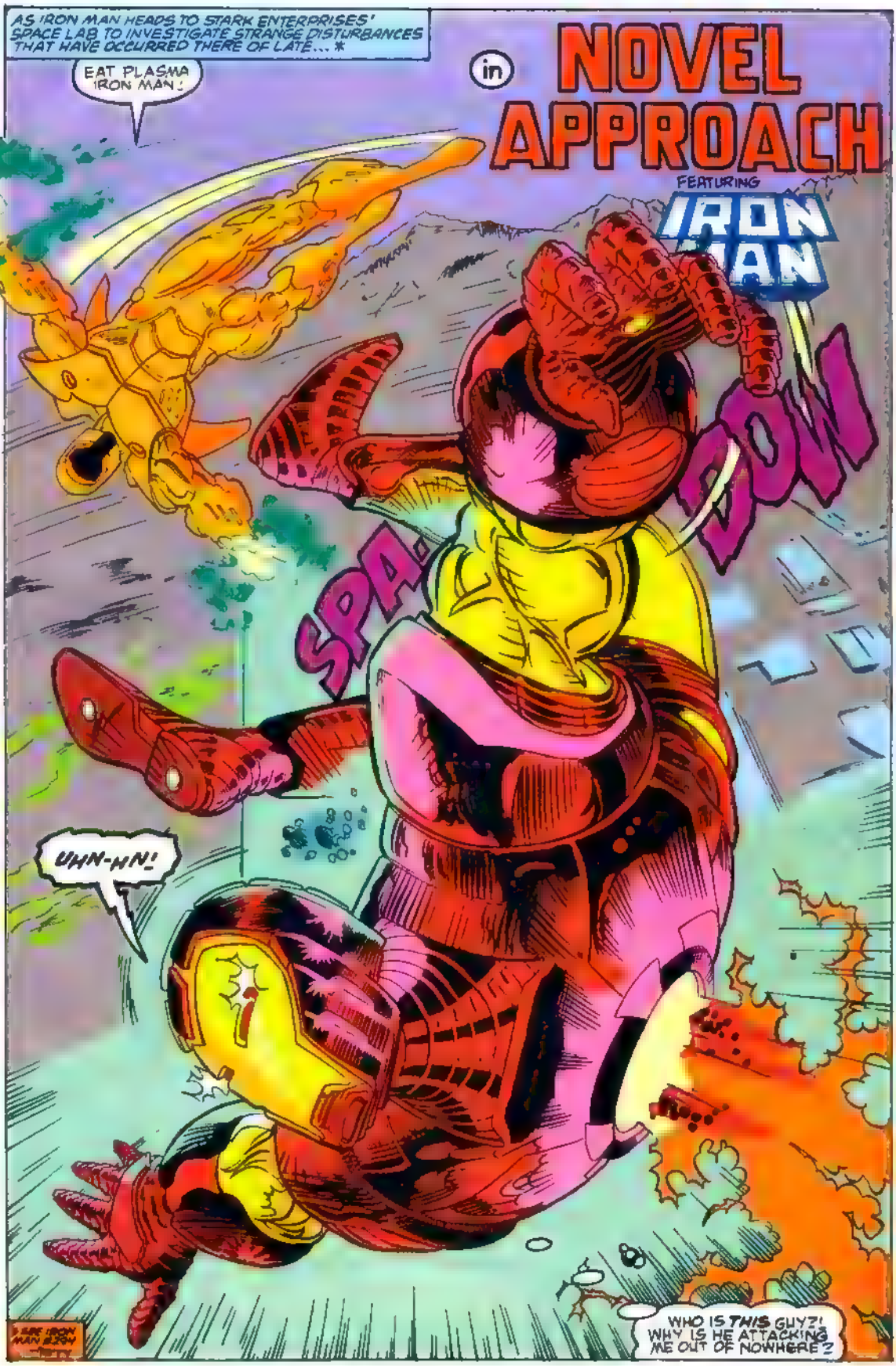
IT WAS WRONG OF YOU TO RUN, KAYLA.
YOU COULD HAVE BEEN THE HERALD OF THE DARK AGE.
NOW WE MUST FIND ANOTHER.
BUT I STILL BEAR THE MARK--
YOUR DEATH WILL SOLVE THAT!
HANG IN THERE, KID. I'M COMIN'!
ONLY ONE DAY OFF THE FLAMIN' PLANE!
DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER, I'D SAY GETTIN' INTA THESE KINDA SCRAPS IS MY REAL MUTANT POWER!

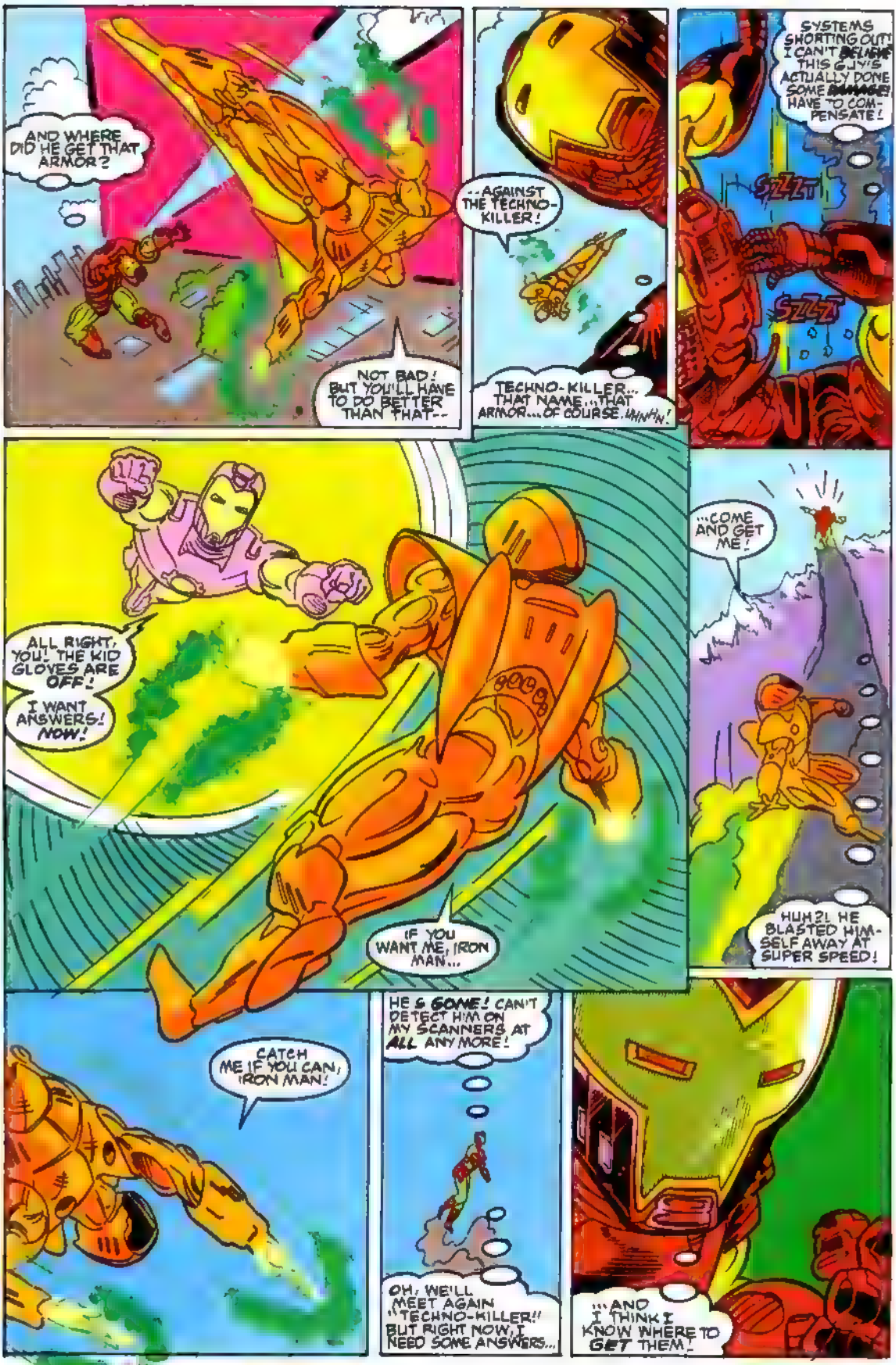
HyAAGH!
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.
STILL ON NEW YORK TIME.
I-I OWE YOU MY LIFE, LOGAN.
OWE ME A LOT MORE 'N THAT, GIRL.
YOU OWE ME A NEW HAT.

NIGHT FALLS; AND THOUGH MY SENSES SAY I'M STILL IN NOMA KOI, MY EYES TELL ME I'M ON THE BLUE SIDE O' THE MOON, OR THE SHI'AR EMPIRE...
...ANYWHERE BUT EARTH.
'LIKE TO THINK I'M ONE OF THE BEST TRACKERS YOU'LL EVER FIND...
...BUT HANG ME IF I CAN POINT OUT A SINGLE CONSTELLATION IN THIS CRAZY SKY.
THOSE I CAN SEE LOOK LIKE SOMETHIN' OUTTA ONE OF MICHAEL TWO-YOUNGMAN'S BOOKS
YOU CAN SEE THE GREATER TRUTH NOW THAT I'VE PUT MY MARK ON YOU.
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL IT, EH?
'THOUGHT YOU GUYS'D HAVE A CUTER NAME FOR IT... LIKE WAKKA MAKKA POI POI.
I'VE MADE YOU MY CHAMPION, LOGAN. NOW YOU BEAR THE SACRIFICIAL MARK.
IF THE COVEN STILL WISH TO BRING ABOUT THE DARK AGE, THEY WILL HAVE TO KILL YOU IN ORDER TO DO SO.
GREAT! JUST WHAT I FLAMIN' WELL NEED!
MORE JOKERS WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IN LIFE 'S ENDING MINE!
LOGAN, WHAT ARE YOU...?
JUST PUTTIN' ON MY BUSINESS SUIT, KAYLA.
'N' HERE I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA GET SOME R AND R.


WOLVERINE! THIS PLACE REEKS OF WOLVERINE!
WHO IS THIS "WOLVERINE", CYBER?
A LITTLE PIECE OF GRIT STUCK BETWEEN THE TEETH OF MY LIFE!
WE HAVE PAID YOU A GREAT DEAL FOR SUCCESS, CYBER. AND YOU'VE BROUGHT US NOTHING BUT FAILURE!
YOU BRING US THE GEM, BUT LOSE THE GIRL. YOU PICK UP HER SCENT, BUT ONE OF YOUR ENEMIES PICKS UP YOURS.
IT IS TIME THE COVEN RELIED ON THEIR OWN UNIQUE TALENTS! FETISH, LOCATE THE GIRL.
YES, BLOOD-SHADOW.
HMMM, THE PRIESTESS, KAYLA, IS STILL ON THE ISLAND...
...BUT SHE HAS PASSED ON HER MARK TO ANOTHER.
VEX, WHAT DO YOU SEE?
EH! THIS ONE'S ENTRAILS ARE RIPE WITH DIVINATIONS.
BUT LIKE OUR OTHER ASSASSINS, HE'S WOUNDED, NOT SLAIN.

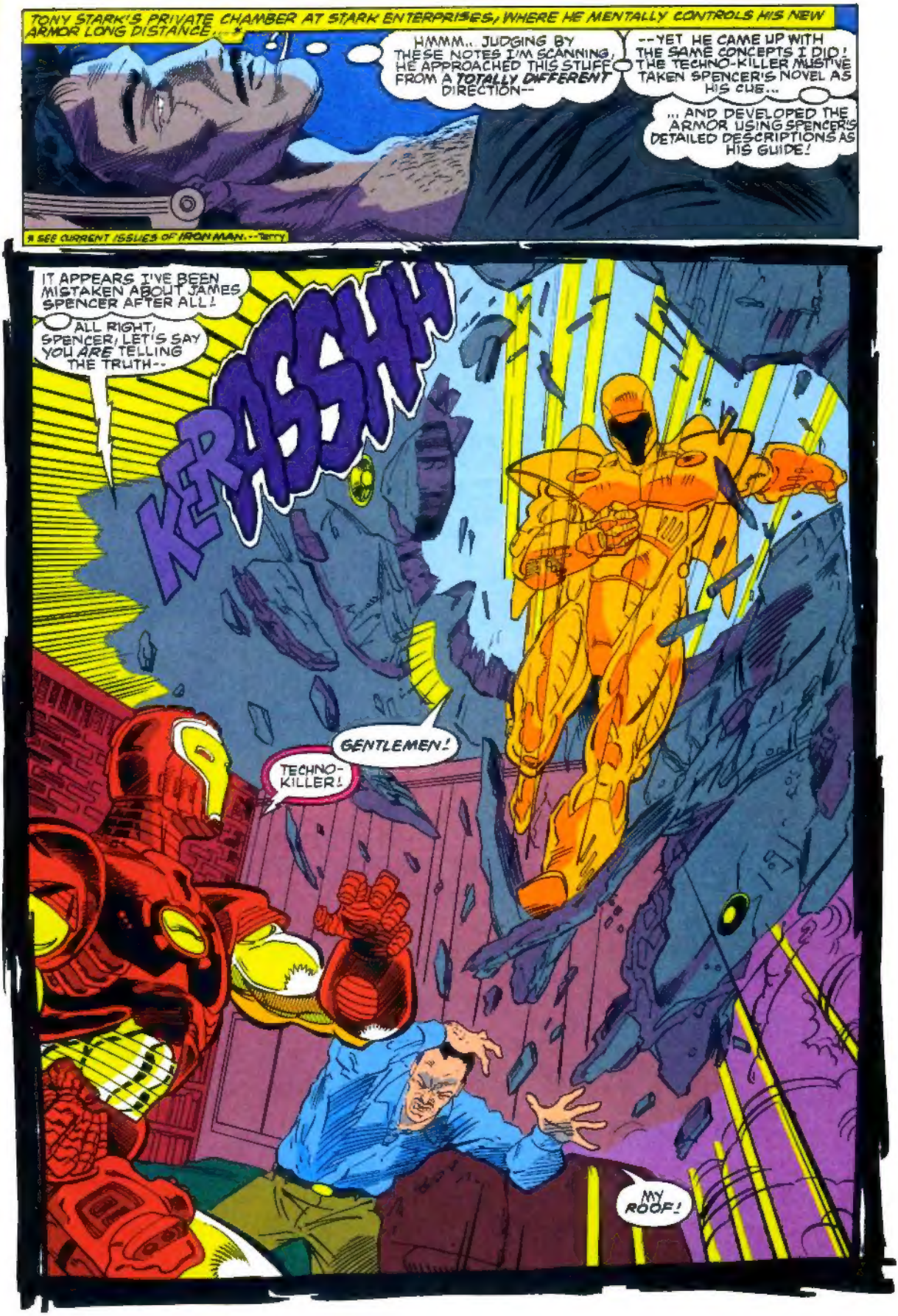

FINISH HIM, VEX.
I MUST SEE THE FUTURE!
@#$%! THESE GUYS GIVE JIM JONES A GOOD NAME.
PSYCHOTIC CULTS, MAGIC GEM-STONES, MYSTIC DIS-EMBOWLINGS...
...I'M NOT GETTIN' ENOUGH FOR THIS @#$%!
YES!
YES!
WE WILL HAVE OUR OFFERING FOR THE DARK-NESS.
THIS MAN, THIS "WOLVERINE," WILL RIDE OUR ALTAR TOWARDS HIS DEATH.
NO KIDDING?!
WELL, HEY, I'D PAY TO SEE THAT!
DON'T WORRY, FRIEND. YOU'LL HAVE A RINGSIDE SEAT.
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...


AS IRON MAN HEADS TO STARK ENTERPRISES' SPACE LAB TO INVESTIGATE STRANGE DISTURBANCES THAT HAVE OCCURRED THERE OF LATE... *
EAT PLASMA IRON MAN!
in NOVEL APPROACH
FEATURING IRON MAN
SPA-
DOW
UHN-HN!
* SEE IRON MAN #294
WHO IS THIS GUY?! WHY IS HE ATTACKING ME OUT OF NOWHERE?


AND WHERE DID HE GET THAT ARMOR?
NOT BAD! BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT--
--AGAINST THE TECHNO-KILLER!
TECHNO-KILLER... THAT NAME...THAT ARMOR...OF COURSE. HMPH!
SYSTEMS SHORTING OUT! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS GUY'S ACTUALLY DONE SOME DAMAGE! HAVE TO COMPENSATE!
SZZZT
SZZZT
ALL RIGHT, YOU! THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF!
I WANT ANSWERS! NOW!
IF YOU WANT ME, IRON MAN...
...COME AND GET ME!
HUH?! HE BLASTED HIMSELF AWAY AT SUPER SPEED!
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, IRON MAN!
HE'S GONE! CAN'T DETECT HIM ON MY SCANNERS AT ALL ANY MORE!
OH, WE'LL MEET AGAIN "TECHNO-KILLER!" BUT RIGHT NOW, I NEED SOME ANSWERS...
...AND I THINK I KNOW WHERE TO GET THEM!

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA...
"...AND THEY DROVE OFF TOWARD THE SETTING SUN. THE END."
WELL, THAT'S IT! "HI-TECH" BY JAMES SPENCER IS NOW A REALITY!
NOW TO PRINT IT OUT AND SEND IT OFF TO MY EDITOR!
YOUR EDITOR WILL HAVE TO WAIT, SPENCER...
EH?
...I WANT WORDS WITH YOU! THE TITLE CHARACTER OF YOUR LAST BEST-SELLING TECHNO-THRILLER NOVEL, "TECHNO-KILLER"!...
...JUST TRIED TO BLAST ME OUT OF THE SKY!
WHA--?!

YOU HEARD ME. AND MUCH OF HIS ARMOR IS TECHNOLOGY THAT'S CURRENTLY UNDER TOP SECRET DEVELOPMENT AT STARK ENTERPRISES.
HOW DID YOU GAIN ACCESS TO THOSE DESIGNS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
MY EMPLOYER, TONY STARK, IS FAMILIAR WITH YOUR BOOK.
HE'S BEEN CONCERNED FOR SOME TIME NOW WITH SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND ARMOR DESIGNS DESCRIBED IN THE NOVEL...
...AND HIGHLY CLASSIFIED PROJECTS HE'S CURRENTLY WORKING ON.
MR. STARK HAD BEEN PLANNING TO PURSUE THIS MATTER WITH YOU, BUT HE'S BEEN ...PREOCCUPIED
NOW, HOWEVER, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF HAND.
I ASSURE YOU, IRON MAN, I HAD NO ACCESS TO ANY STARK DESIGNS!
THESE ARE MY NOTES AND REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR "TECHNO-KILLER." THESE ARE ALL THAT I WORKED FROM.
I'M A TECHNOPHILE-- I IMMERSE MYSELF IN INDUSTRY JOURNALS AND THE LIKE!
FOR MY NOVELS, I LOOK AT CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES AND EXTRAPOLATE ON HOW I BELIEVE THEY'LL ADVANCE AND EVOLVE--
--AND THAT INCLUDES "TECHNO-KILLER."


TONY STARK'S PRIVATE CHAMBER AT STARK ENTERPRISES, WHERE HE MENTALLY CONTROLS HIS NEW ARMOR LONG DISTANCE...*
HMMM... JUDGING BY THESE NOTES I'M SCANNING, HE APPROACHED THIS STUFF FROM A TOTALLY DIFFERENT DIRECTION--
--YET HE CAME UP WITH THE SAME CONCEPTS I DID! THE TECHNO-KILLER MUST'VE TAKEN SPENCER'S NOVEL AS HIS CUE...
... AND DEVELOPED THE ARMOR USING SPENCER'S DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS AS HIS GUIDE!
* SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF IRON MAN.--TEFFY
IT APPEARS I'VE BEEN MISTAKEN ABOUT JAMES SPENCER AFTER ALL!
ALL RIGHT, SPENCER, LET'S SAY YOU ARE TELLING THE TRUTH--
KRASSH
GENTLEMEN!
TECHNO-KILLER!
MY ROOF!

TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH ME, IRON MAN! IT WAS A CINCH TO ELECTRONICALLY TRACK YOU HERE! I'VE COME FOR A REMATCH!
AND THIS TIME...
...I'M RAISING THE STAKES!
FIGHT ME, AVENGER, OR I'LL BLOW SPENCER'S TOP!
GAKK!
THIS GUY'S A SCREWBALL! I REALLY SHOULDN'T INDULGE HIM WITH THIS FIGHT HE WANTS SO MUCH...
...BUT I CAN'T LET ANY HARM COME TO SPENCER!
ALL RIGHT, "TECHNO-KILLER!" YOU WIN.
EXCELLENT! BEAT IT, SPENCER!
WHUFF!
VR-POWWW
ROUND TWO!
ARRRRGH!

IRON MAN'S PUTTING UP A DEFENSE... BARELY...
HIS ONLY HOPE FOR DEFEATING THE "TECHNO-KILLER" MAY LIE IN HOW CLOSELY THIS GUY FOLLOWED MY ARMOR DESIGN DESCRIPTIONS!
DESPITE THE INCORPORATION OF SPENCER'S CONCEPTS INTO THAT SUIT, I KNOW ITS BASIC DESIGN!
AND SO I KNOW THAT IT'S GOT TO HAVE A VULNERABLE POINT! BUT WHERE WOULD IT BE ON THAT PARTICULAR ARMOR?
HAVE TO PICK A SPOT--TAKE AN EDUCATED GUESS...
IRON MAN! FIRE FULL REPULSORS AT THE NECK! AT THE NECK!
NOT MY FIRST CHOICE, BUT AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY!
SHOOM
AAAARGH!!
IT WORKED! HE FOLLOWED MY IDEAS TO A TEE AND PLACED THE ARMOR'S MAIN CONTROL CIRCUITRY IN THE NECK AREA...
MAKING THAT THE MOST VULNERABLE POINT IN THE ARMOR, HE'S COMPLETELY IMMOBILIZED.
NOW, LET'S FIND OUT WHO HE IS...
:GASP: HAROLD!
I TAKE IT YOU KNOW THIS CREEP?

HE'S HAROLD MARKS--MY RESEARCH ASSISTANT!
HE WORKED AS A LOW-LEVEL TECHNICIAN AT STANE INTERNATIONAL YEARS AGO, BUT LEFT TO COME WORK FOR ME!
YES! I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF WORKING WITH JAMES SPENCER AND BE RECOGNIZED FOR MY TECHNICAL EXPERTISE...
...ONLY TO BE UNDERPAID AND UN-APPRECIATED BY YOU, SPENCER!
YOU WENT ON TO BECOME A MAJOR NATIONAL LITERARY FIGURE, WHILE I REMAINED IN ANONYMOUS OBSCURITY.
BECOMING THE TECHNO-KILLER AND HUMILIATING THE "GREAT HERO" IRON MAN WOULD GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO FINALLY SECURE MY REPUTATION.
THEN THIS ISN'T YOUR LUCKY DAY, IS IT?
I'LL TAKE MARKS OFF YOUR HANDS, SPENCER. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! AND TONY STARK WILL PAY FOR THE DAMAGE TO YOUR HOUSE.
"...FOR THE INSPIRATION."
ARMOR WARS
A Novel By James Spencer
THANK YOU, IRON MAN...
THE END.

PARIS KAROLINOS WISHES TO DEDICATE HIS EFFORTS ON THIS STORY TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS KAROLINOS.